

I was able to offer a \$300 million effort on behalf of our colleagues and all Floridians to preserve our most vital natural resource in Florida, which is water, and our Everglades National Park, which is a treasure for generations to come.

But it is obviously today more the work of Marjory Stoneman Douglas that has brought us here today, both to honor her life, celebrate her presence, eulogize a tribute to her, the preservation of something so vitally important to over 14 million Floridians and actually the entire United States, the preservation, the lifeblood of Florida, the Everglades National Park.

ISSUES AFFECTING HAWAII

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand the Asian American and Pacific Islander Journal of Health here from the autumn issue in 1993. It addresses the health status of Kanaka Maoli, the indigenous Hawaiians. It is written by my good friend Dr. Richard Kekuni Blaisdell.

In the process of reviewing this, Mr. Speaker, you will find that the purpose is to summarize the current health status of the Kanaka Maoli, the indigenous Hawaiian people, with historical background, the underlying factors responsible for the indigenous Hawaiian health plight and recommendations.

The principal findings, Mr. Speaker, are that the indigenous Hawaiians continue to have the worst health and socioeconomic indicators of the various ethnic groups who call their home Hawaii: cardiovascular disorders, cancer, diabetes, obstructive lung diseases, maternal and infant ill health, alcohol problems, obesity, major life-style risk factors, societal factors such as depopulation, foreign transmigration, colonial exploitation, cultural conflict and racism.

Since 1990, Mr. Speaker, as a result of our native Hawaiian health programs funded here in the Congress and under our auspices, native Hawaiian communities have established five island-wide native Hawaiian health care systems to improve availability, accessibility, and acceptability of health services to all of the indigenous Hawaiian people, to provide them with resources.

The health status is a grim one, Mr. Speaker, and I have to bring to your attention and to the rest of my colleagues the important matters which we have been addressing by congressional action and are now compromised.

The House Committee on the Budget yesterday released a proposed budget for the Federal Government for the coming year. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened, not just outraged, but saddened by the effort contained in that proposal to eliminate funding for the native Hawaiian health care programs. Why the

leadership of the Committee on the Budget and the leadership, Mr. Speaker, in the majority Republican Conference, has chosen to attack native Hawaiian health courtrooms is beyond me.

The program addresses the documented needs of Hawaii's native citizens in a culturally relevant context. Of all of the races of people in the islands of Hawaii, the native Hawaiian people have had the most difficult times in health and social indicators. Why it is a position of the Republican majority to attack native Hawaiians is beyond my grasp at this time, Mr. Speaker.

They are hurting people in the lowest socioeconomic status with the highest overall mortality rate, the highest cancer mortality rate, the highest accident rate, the highest years of productive life lost to chronic disease, the highest infant mortality rate. I could go on with this, Mr. Speaker. It is a litany that we are trying to overcome.

These grim statistics can be attributed to the imposition of foreign cultures and practices upon the native Hawaiian people. Only since the 1988 introduction of the native Hawaiian health program have we begun to turn these statistics around. We need the budget for it, and we have achieved a balanced Federal budget in the process. I voted consistently to achieve that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I will end my remarks now, but will put forward the statistics as well as the background on the proposal to end these programs for native Hawaiians by the majority. I hope, Mr. Speaker, by the time we finish our budget proposal that we will be able to reverse this proposal.

DISTRACTIONS AND OBSTRUCTIONS IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE INVESTIGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House this afternoon after the proceedings that took place today. I am really concerned about the process of the House of Representatives and its investigative ability.

Today we saw an attempt to besmirch the reputation and interfere with the congressional investigation of campaign financing abuses in the 1996 election. Personally, I am quite disturbed by what we saw take place. I think it backfired on the other side of the aisle, and I think that they were surprised that some of their colleagues from the other side of the aisle joined with this side in voting down this unprecedented interference in the congressional investigative process.

The issue is not the Chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; the issue is, in fact, the delay, the diversion, the distraction, and the very obstruction of

the congressional investigation process. I am really concerned about what again has taken place. We saw action on the floor today.

This is a situation that is very serious. For the first time in the history of our Federal elections process, we have seen an attempt to influence congressional and presidential elections by foreign money, foreign resources in our campaign process. Now we see an attempt to close down that investigation.

I have served on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and its predecessor since I came to Congress in 1993. That is one of the most important committees and responsibilities in this Congress.

It was founded and established by our Founding Fathers for a purpose, because they did not trust the appropriators, they did not trust the legislators, the authorizers; they wanted a third check and balance on the conduct and operation of our governmental system.

That is where the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight got its very roots and bearing. That is the difference between our system of governments and other democratic system of governments is that check and balance.

To close down that investigation, to divert the attention on the chairman is a misuse of power and responsibility in this House of Representatives, and I take great offense to it.

We have seen, again, unprecedented amounts of money, and our committee has been investigating. It may be too bad that it comes to the door of the White House, but it should be disclosed. It should be investigated. It cannot be shut down.

When the other side says that they will close down the proceedings of the House as far as investigation, when the Department of Justice says we agree that we will grant immunity and allow you to grant immunity for cooperation of these witnesses, and they try to divert attention from that and block us from investigating, they have shut down this process. It is an affront to every Member of Congress. It should be an affront to every citizen. It should be an affront to the media that they are trying to divert, to stall, and obstruct this process. The process will go forward.

I happen to be the only Member of the House that serves on both the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and also on the Committee on House Oversight. It will come to one of those committees, or it will come to the floor. This matter will be thoroughly investigated as the Founding Fathers intended and as our congressional process and constitutional process require.

We have seen, now, the influx of Indonesian money, Chinese money, Thai money, Venezuelan money, Russian money, and convicted drug dealers' money into this process. In this process, the American people want to know the answers. Is this affecting our policy if our ports are given away? If we have